

black. The head had no crest (nor even the suggestion of one), being ball-shaped, with no peaking behind the yellow eye (if anything the highest point of the head was in front of the eye). The head, neck and breast were iridescent green, but occasionally appeared blue depending on the angle. The bill was grey and slipper-shaped, being deeper at its base and notably larger than Tufted Duck. The nail was not visible. Female: head shape and size similar to the male, with no suggestion of a crest. The head, neck and chest were unmarked brown except for a prominent white patch surrounding the bill. The back, flanks and mantle were slightly lighter brown.

Greater Scaup is a summer visitor to sub-Arctic and Arctic regions of northern Europe, Asia and North America, wintering in temperate coastal waters of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of North America, and in

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# Vocalisations of Matinan Flycatcher *Cyornis sanfordi* in North Sulawesi, Indonesia

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The Matinan Flycatcher *Cyornis sanfordi* is a poorly known montane endemic found at 1,400–2,400 m on the northern (Minahasa) peninsula of Sulawesi; it is listed as Vulnerable by BirdLife International (2001). It was first described from a series of nine specimens amassed in a few days' collecting by Heinrich at Gunung Ile-Ile, Matinan, Gorontalo (Stresemann 1931, Stresemann and Heinrich 1939–1941). There have only been two published accounts following this. On 24 October 1981, a specimen was caught off the ridge of Gunung Kabila in the Dumoga watershed at c.1,400 m, and on 18 April 1985, the species was observed and tape-recorded at c.1,770 m at the summit of Gunung Muajat, in the Ambang range (Rozendaal and Dekker 1988). Riley and Mole (2001) reported observations and a nest site located in November 1999 at 1,450–1,500 m in Gunung Ambang nature reserve. These authors noted that the vocalisations of this species remain undescribed (although Rozendaal in Rozendaal and Dekker [1988] had planned to publish recordings). Here we describe the species's vocalisations for the first time.

We observed the species during 15–22 May 2002, at Singsingon on Gunung Ambang (0°45'N 124°25'E; coordinates from BirdLife International 2001), and on the eastern slope of Gunung Banga (0°44'N 124°26'E, 1–2 km south-east of Gunung Ambang), in broadleaved evergreen montane forest at 1,000–1,300 m (this altitudinal range encompasses records at both sites; the figures for each site separately are not available). The first site is moderately disturbed by selective logging, whereas the second is heavily deforested by a

Europe, the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, and eastern Asia. It is abundant, with large numbers wintering in eastern Asia (Madge 1988).

The birds remained until at least 6 March 2002, and the record has been accepted by the Records Committee of Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (P. Round *in litt.* 2002).

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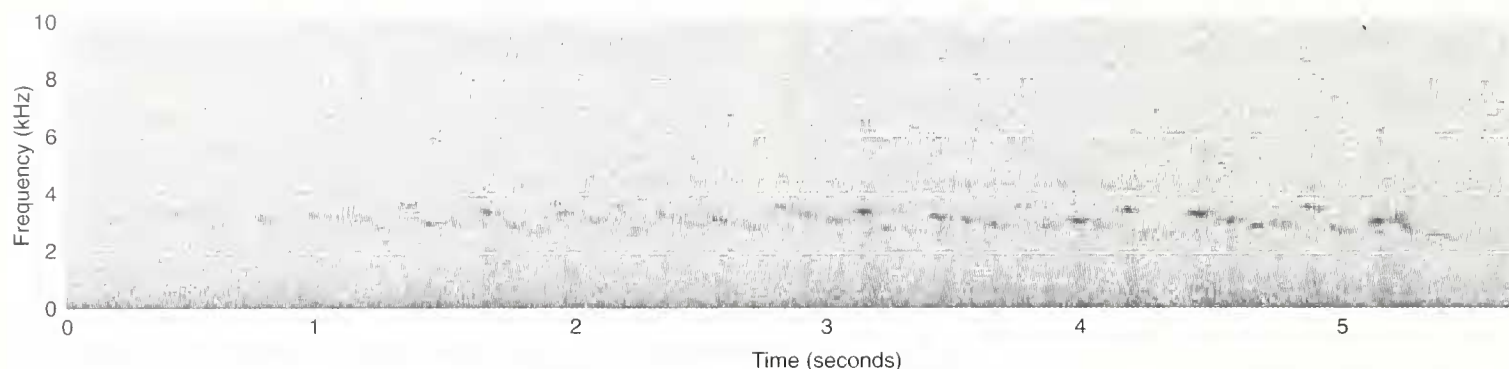
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combination of selective logging and slash-and-burn cultivation.

The birds were identified by their medium size, brown upperparts, slightly darker wings, buff-ochre vent, and pink-horn bill with a fine tip and very broad base surrounded by rictal bristles. In very good light, the birds showed a slightly contrasting grey head, brown mantle, and rufous-brown uppertail.

A total of 11 individuals were recorded: four at Singsingon, and seven at Gunung Banga. The latter site is a new locality for this species, where our observations suggested that the bird was moderately common. Of the total, five individuals were both seen and heard, five were heard but not seen, and one bird was seen only. Most birds were recorded singly, with three records of pairs. Five records were of birds associating with mixed-species flocks, typically including Rusty-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura teysmanni*, Citrine Canary Flycatcher *Culicicapa helianthea*, Sulphur-bellied Whistler *Pachycephala sulfuriventer*, Black-crowned White-eye *Zosterops atrifrons*, Streaky-headed White-eye *Lophozosterops squamiceps*, and occasionally Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis*, Sulawesi Cicadabird *Coracina morio*, Sulawesi Drongo *Dicrurus montanus*, and Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cuculatus*.

The song (Fig. 1) comprised repeated phrases of notes that were rapid, rather thin, clear, and somewhat subdued (although sometimes loud). The pitch varied slightly between 2 kHz and 4 kHz. A series of 20–40 notes were delivered in a single phrase lasting 2–9 s, sounding like *tiitiitutiitiituti*. On one occasion a second bird responded to the typical song by giving a similar



**Figure 1.** Song of Matinan Flycatcher *Cyornis sanfordii* in North Sulawesi, Indonesia

song, delivered at a slower rate and with greater emphasis on each note (*ti-ti-ti-tu-ti-ti-ti-ti-tu-ti*). Individuals were observed singing for up to 30 mins, with birds rarely changing perch during singing bouts. The warbling song is not dissimilar to that of Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor*, except that the latter has markedly shorter phrases (B. van Balen pers comm. 2002, commenting on recording).

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank: Myron Shenkelle for providing assistance with preparing the sonogram; Bas van Balen for help in describing the song; and Jon Riley for kindly commenting on a draft of this note.

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## First records of Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Calidris pygmeus* in the Indian Sundarbans delta, West Bengal

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On 22 November 2001, I visited the Sagar Island in the western part of the Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve, West Bengal. At 06h15 I found a small stint foraging on the mudflats. I observed this bird for more than 20 minutes with 10x50 binoculars at a distance of c.25 m. At 06h55 another solitary individual was sighted c.500 m from the first individual, and this bird was watched for 15 minutes at a distance of 20 m.

Both individuals were easily identified as Spoon-billed Sandpipers *Calidris pygmeus* by their flattened spatulate bills and their extraordinary foraging behaviour, in which they ran quickly across the mudflat, stopping regularly to feed by sweeping the submerged bill-tip from side to side. Both were adults in winter plumage, and no plumage differences were noted

between them. They had unstreaked white underparts, and greyish-brown upperparts, with dark shaft-streaks on the wing-coverts, back and mantle. The forehead and prominent supercilium were white, the crown was streaked darker, and the ear-coverts were largely pale. The rump and uppertail-coverts were dark grey-brown, with white at the sides. The tail was dark brown with whitish fringes to the outer rectrices. A white wing-bar was prominent in flight. The second individual called twice, giving a shrill, ascending 'whoatt...whoatt'.

One of these individuals, or another, was watched for 30 minutes at a distance of 25 m at the same spot at 06h30 on 23 November. During 7–14 December 2001, I observed Spoon-billed Sandpipers on eight occasions at various locations in the Sundarbans tiger reserve